

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

a1
1. (Amended) A medicinal polymeric construct for treating a patient comprising a polysaccharide polymer, which dissolves in the body of said patient upon said treating with the construct, having a selected medicament entrapped therewithin which is released from the construct in a dissolution controlled manner to said patient upon said polymer dissolution.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (Amended) A method of preparing the construct of claim 1 which comprises, dissolving said polymer and said medicament in a solvent to form a solution; exposing said solution to a critical pressure and temperature while mixing with an anti-solvent to dry said solution to form the construct.

[Please amend claim 9 as follows:]

a2
9. (Amended) A method of preparing the construct of claim 1 which comprises, dispersing said polymer in a solution of said medicament to form a dispersion; subjecting said dispersion to a critical pressure and temperature while mixing with an anti-solvent to dry said dispersion to separate the construct after about 0.0001 to about 24 hours.

[Please amend claim 10 as follows:]

10. (Amended) A method of preparing the construct of claim 1 which comprises, dissolving said polymer in a solution of said medicament to form a polymer solution and drying said polymer solution as a spray for about 0.1 to about 8 hours to form the construct.

[Please amend claim 11 as follows:]

11. (Amended) The method as defined in claim 8 wherein said construct comprises particles which are under 10 micrometers in diameter.